

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 211

By Massey

A RESOLUTION to recognize Dr. James L. "Jim" Decker on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that we should honor those citizens who have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm throughout their years of service; and

WHEREAS, Dr. James L. "Jim" Decker is one such estimable individual, who is taking his much-deserved retirement as chief executive officer of MEDIC Regional Blood Center in Knoxville, bringing to a close seventeen years of sterling service; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Decker was appointed to serve as CEO of MEDIC Regional Blood Center in 2006; prior to accepting this position, he held the post of senior vice president of Baptist Health System of East Tennessee in Knoxville for six years, president and CEO of Gateway Health System in Clarksville for eleven years, CEO of Sumner Regional Medical Center in Gallatin for five years, and vice president of Fort Sanders Regional Medical Center in Knoxville for five years; and

WHEREAS, a native of Zachary, Louisiana, Jim Decker holds both a Bachelor of Science and a Master of Science degree in Microbiology from Louisiana State University, a Master of Science degree in Hospital and Health Administration from the University of Alabama at Birmingham, a Master of Business Administration from the University of Tennessee, and a Doctor of Health Administration from the Medical University of South Carolina; and

WHEREAS, highly regarded in his profession, Dr. Decker is a Fellow in the American College of Healthcare Executives and past ACHE Regent for Tennessee; he is a former board member of the Tennessee Hospital Association, the Hospital Alliance of Tennessee, and America's Blood Centers, as well as past president of the Knoxville Area Hospital Council; and

WHEREAS, he currently serves on the board of directors of the Senior Citizens Home Assistance Service and Interfaith Health Clinic and as vice chairman of Community Blood Centers' Exchange, and he holds part-time assistant professor faculty appointments at South College and the University of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, often duly honored for his outstanding leadership, Dr. Jim Decker has received the UAB Graduate Program in Hospital and Health Administration Alumni Association Award for Academic Excellence and Alumnus of the Year Award, Tennessee Hospital Association Meritorious Service Award for a CEO, Tennessee ACHE Regent's Award for Senior Level Healthcare Executive, and Outstanding DHA Student Award from the Medical University of South Carolina, and he was named a Health Care Hero for Administrative Excellence by the *Knoxville Business Journal*; and

WHEREAS, committed to serving his community, Dr. Decker is a member and past deacon chair of First Baptist Church of Knoxville, a graduate of Leadership Knoxville and East Tennessee Regional Leadership, and a past president of the Rotary Club of Knoxville; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Jim Decker is grateful for the love and support of his wife of thirty-nine years, Michelle, and their children, Ben, Brittany, and Madeline; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Dr. Decker has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the respect and admiration of his colleagues and the citizens of the State of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we extend to Dr. James L. "Jim" Decker our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.